

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the relationship between a thermal expansion coefficient α_L of said adhesive layer and a thermal expansion coefficient α_F of said porous ceramic member is as follows:

$$0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0.$$

Claim 2 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of a ceramic block which comprises at least one of a columnar porous ceramic member,

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the relationship between the thermal expansion coefficient α_M of the coating material layer and the thermal expansion coefficient α_F of the porous ceramic member are as follows:

$$0.01 < |\alpha_M - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0.$$

Claim 3 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer to constitute a ceramic block,

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of said ceramic block

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the relationship between the thermal expansion coefficient α_L of the adhesive layer and the thermal expansion coefficient α_F of the porous ceramic member are as follows:

$$0.01 < |\alpha_L - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0, \text{ and}$$

the relationship between the thermal expansion coefficient α_M of the coating material layer and the thermal expansion coefficient α_F of the porous ceramic member are as follows:

$$0.01 < |\alpha_M - \alpha_F|/\alpha_F < 1.0.$$

Claim 4 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number

of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the adhesive layer has a thermal capacity per unit volume that is lower than the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 5 (Original): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 4,

wherein

the thermal capacity per unit volume of the adhesive layer is set to 90% or less of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~,

wherein

the thermal capacity per unit volume of the adhesive layer is set to 20% or more of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 7 (Original): An adhesive comprising:

a material that is capable of forming independent pores.

Claim 8 (Original): The adhesive according to claim 7,

wherein

the material that is capable of forming independent pores is made from at least one material selected from the group consisting of a foaming agent, inorganic balloons and organic balloons.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer, each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween ;and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the adhesive layer is made of the adhesive according to claim 7-~~or~~ 8.

Claim 10 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of a ceramic block which comprises at least one of a columnar porous ceramic member,

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the coating material layer has a thermal capacity per unit volume that is lower than the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 11 (Original): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 10,

wherein

the thermal capacity per unit volume of the coating material layer is set to 90% or less of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 10-~~or 11~~,

wherein

the thermal capacity per unit volume of the coating material layer is set to 20% or more of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 13 (Original): A coating material comprising
a material that is capable of forming independent pores.

Claim 14 (Original): The coating material according to claim 13,

wherein

the material that is capable of forming independent pores is made from at least one material selected from the group consisting of a foaming agent, inorganic balloons and organic balloons.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of a ceramic block which comprises at least one of a columnar porous ceramic member,

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween

wherein

said coating material layer is formed by using the coating material according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~.

Claim 16 (Original): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer to constitute a ceramic block,

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of said ceramic block

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the thermal capacity per unit volume of the adhesive layer and the thermal capacity per unit volume of the coating material layer are lower than the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 17 (Original): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 16,

wherein

each of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the adhesive layer and the thermal capacity per unit volume of the coating material layer is set to 90% or less of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~,

wherein

each of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the adhesive layer and the thermal capacity per unit volume of the coating material layer is 20% or more of the thermal capacity per unit volume of the porous ceramic member.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which:

a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer to constitute a ceramic block,

a coating material layer is formed on the circumferential face of said ceramic block

each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween ; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

wherein

the adhesive layer is formed by using the adhesive disclosed in claim 7-~~or~~8, and the coating material layer is formed by using ~~the~~ a coating material that is capable of forming independent pores disclosed in claim 13 or 14.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19,~~ wherein a catalyst is supported.

Claim 21 (Original): A manufacturing method of a honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which: a plurality of a columnar porous ceramic member are combined with one another through adhesive layer to form a ceramic laminated body, and said ceramic laminated body is subjected to a machining process to constitute a ceramic block,

said ceramic block having a filled layer formed on the circumference part thereof each of said columnar porous ceramic member comprising a number of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween; and

said partition wall which separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates

which comprises steps of:

the coating material filling step, in which

assuming that a border line formed by an end face of a ceramic block to be manufactured is superposed on an end face of said ceramic laminated body formed by

combining a plurality of the porous ceramic members with one another through the adhesive layer,

the through holes of the porous ceramic member that crosses the border line is filled with a coating material; and

the ceramic block manufacturing process, in which

the ceramic laminated body filled with said coating material is subjected to a machining process so that a ceramic block is manufactured.